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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

6 JUL 1993

THE SECRETARY - ROOM 222

IN REPLY REFER TO:
7330-7/1700A3

Honorable Sam Nunn
United States Senator
75 Spring Street, S.W.
Suite 1700
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

RECEIVED

JUL - 7 1993

Dear Senator Nunn:

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

This is in response to your letter of June 10, 1993, in which you inquired on behalf of your constituent, Harold Elig, regarding the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Notice) in PR Docket No. 92-235, 57 FR 54034 (1992). Mr. Elig is specifically concerned about the potential impact of our final rules on radio remote controlled airplane hobbyists.

Model airplane users have shared spectrum on a secondary basis with industrial users for over 25 years. The low power industrial user and the radio control model airplane hobbyists effectively share spectrum through geographic separation. We are enclosing the Report and Order in GEN Docket 82-181, 47 FR 51875 (1982), which provided the current 50 channels for radio controlled model airplanes. These rules, adopted at the behest of the model airplane community, provide no protection from interference from licensed sources. We further note that the radio environment is inherently hazardous and that even primary allocations suffer from problems. For example, model aircraft users receive interference from other model aircraft users and from certain TV channels. Thus, model aircraft must be, and in fact are, capable of co-existing with some interference. As to Mr. Elig's concern about the proposed frequency tolerance, this is a carryover from current rules and will be appropriately adjusted in any final rules.

The Commission is seeking to work with all parties on this matter. To this end, FCC staff has met with the two largest industry groups representing model airplane users, the Academy of Model Aeronautics and the Sport Flyers Association, to discuss their concerns and methods of expanding capacity for private land mobile radio users without affecting radio control users. Following the comment and reply comment periods, we will endeavour to adopt reasonable final rules as soon as possible.

Thank you for your interest. Your letter will be included in the formal record of this proceeding.

Sincerely,

/s/

Joseph A. Levin
Chief, Policy and Planning Branch
Private Radio Bureau

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Enclosure

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

*PRB
interfer
2/6/04*

June 10, 1993

Ms. Laura J. Belvin, Acting Director
Office of Legislative Affairs
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

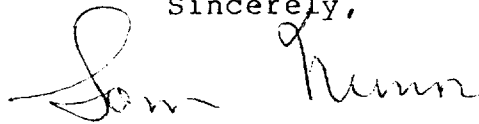
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Dear Ms. Belvin:

I recently received the enclosed inquiry from one of my constituents. Please review the matter thoroughly, in accordance with established policies and procedures, and provide me with a full report.

I look forward to hearing from you in the very near future.

Sincerely,



Sam Nunn

Enclosure

SN/lkj

PLEASE REPLY TO:
75 Spring Street, S.W.
Suite 1700
Atlanta, Ga. 30303
Attn: Laura Johnson

AK

Harold F. Elig
8622 W. Creighton Pl
Savannah, GA 31406
May 12 1993

Honorable Sam Nunn
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Nunn:

In reference to your letter of May 6 1993 and the report by the FCC. They have failed to mention that the interference that will likely cause by the new channels is because of the sloppy tolerance allowed of the new commercial equipment. Why can't they be required to maintain close tolerances just as the hobby R/C Control equipment is required or is it the almighty business talking again?

As for the FCC trustworthiness, a couple of examples:

Back in the 1983 - 1985 time period near Mound MN. a reepeter station was malfunctioning for a couple of years Splattering over and causing a lot of trouble and one of my crashes. It took the FCC a couple of years to do anything about the source.

In Albuquerque, NM. around 1987 we found that the FCC gave open permission to the Federal users at Kirtland Air Force Base to use any of the R/C channels until the users received complaints. At that time I saw a report made to the model club that indicated all but two of the R/C modele channels were being used by the Federal users. Complaints were made to the FCC about the interference but they never looked at the situation by the time I left the area in 1989. During the time I was there I saw numerous interference crashes and including one case where two models crashed, another was forced down by it's fail system, all at the same time.

Here in the Savannah area were still getting sporadic interference for the past three seasons (including numerous crashes) and nobody as yet has seen an FCC investigator out here.

Not to many years ago the FCC gave open permission to the builders of the overhead cranes to use one of the R/C model channels.

Many case of the type are available from all over the states, these are unique.

I think many manufacturers will produce sloppy equipment that will be off frequency as well as splatter knowing the FCC won't monitor them.

See the insert copied from RCM.

Sincerely; Harold Elig

Harold Elig

★
In our March '93 issue, From The Shop column, I listed Frank Johnson's news regarding the purchase of the Wescraft Series of models. Frank has a new address and phone number. Contact him at: Johnson's Custom Models, 43176 Business Park Dr., Suite 104, Temecula, California 92590, (909) 695-0735.

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By this time I would expect that most everyone who is involved with R/C has either heard or read about the frequency alert. In our April issue, we printed a brief description of what is happening which was written by Cal Orr. George Steiner has put some words together, along with two charts that will help explain the complete situation. Some of this input may already be known; however, we can't harp on this enough, it's that important to anyone who is involved in the hobby, being a modeler, manufacturer, and yes, even the model publications. The following is from George:

Urgent Frequency Alert from AMA

To all users of model frequencies in both the 72 and 75 MHz bands:

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has issued a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM-PR Docket 92-235) which, if implemented, will have a profound effect on model frequency use by 1996. Developed by the FCC Land Mobile Service, it creates a massive frequency restructuring of all radio frequencies, the first of its type in 60 years.

The 419 page document addresses frequency use in another service (Part 88) but will also affect Part 95 where our R/C frequency use lives. Without becoming too technical, the restructuring inserts two new frequencies between those presently assigned for modeling use and commercial users. That means we could have a transmitter only 2.5 KHz away from a large number of our 75 MHz frequencies. In the 72 MHz band, thirty-one of our frequencies would be bracketed, principally in the lower end of the band (below channel 42). A similar condition would exist in the 75 MHz band. Examples of the frequency placing would look like Figure 1 graph.

Not only are these new frequencies vastly close to ours, they are also designated as "mobile"; therefore, we would never know where they are operating, including right in the pit area at your field or on the street and highway nearby. In addition, the technical specifications for the new equipment allows a legal frequency tolerance which could place their signal directly on ours. What can be done to address this situation?

AMA, with full industry support, will pursue all avenues available through the legal counsel they retain to represent modelers before the FCC. The first step in that process is the filing of formal comments prior to February 26, 1993. Other steps will follow. You are urged to file a written protest to the FCC at the address below stating that this new ruling would destroy the entire use of radio control for flying models. It would be very unsafe, and would cause bodily harm to people involved in or about the hobby. FCC, 1919 M Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20554.

Editor's Note: The following information was received after the column was written:

Extension of Time in FCC Proceeding

The FCC today (February 9, 1993) granted the request of the Land Mobile Communications Council for an extension of time in which to file comments on the proposed revisions to the FCC's private radio rules. The initial comments are now due May 28, 1993 (instead of February 26). Reply comments will be due July 14 (instead of April 14).

Back in 1991, I read an interesting piece that appeared in the November 1991 Air Tales, newsletter of the Tri-Valley R/C Club, from South Bend, Indiana. I couldn't find the editor's name listed, and my apologies for the omission. The following story was written by Bob Neitzke and entitled:

"Cornado Hits TVRC" on Clear Fall Day:

Fall is a wonderful time for flying. Temperatures are cooler, the air is thicker, engines perform better, and the colors are spectacular. It was on one of these spectacular fall Sundays that an interesting

event occurred at the field. Early arrivals had been taking advantage of the clear skies and light yet variable winds. The sun shone bright which helped make the 50° temperature a pleasant experience. By noon the flight line was beginning to show significant signs of activity. Mary had been flying her Butterfly for about 45 minutes when, during her second flight, she screamed, "I haven't got it!" By the time I ran over and grabbed the Tx, the ol' Butterfly was nose down and coming right over the north edge of the east woods. I hollered, "Turn off 26," as I flicked low throttle and pulled back on the stick.

Those 100" wings strained hard as the pullout progressed. We brought her in right away to check for any hidden spar damage. First, we checked around the flight line for another channel 26 and scanned the parking lot as well. Then while examining the wings we heard a very strange sound. Up and down the flight line everyone stared with disbelief towards the south cornfield.

Was it a corn picker or some crazed mud bogging 4-wheeler? No! It was the answer to Mary's apparent loss of control. An awesome, 3D display of what a thermal actually looks like was unfolding before our eyes. As corn leaves were being torn from their stalks and the size and shape of the thermal began to materialize, loud crumpling sounds continued as the sky blackened with shredded corn parts ascending at an alarming rate. That dried corn was taking a beating by winds from all directions. Everything nearby was being sucked, violently upwards. Drifting southwest, our private tornado continued vacuuming loose corn stuff for the next five minutes then drifted out onto the field and sauntered north. It lost energy while crossing the grass, but localized winds were still causing trouble for models flying nearby. The folks on the flight line grabbed models and jackets for fear of being launched into the stratos. My lawn chairs were blown over as the "Corn Devil" passed by the west end of the flight line and over the pavilion. Corn shreds were now well over 1000' high and drifting down around the field's perimeter. The last parting shot of the Tri-Valley "Cornado"

